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CR: Best 'Employee' car deals

It's only a great price if the car is worth buying. Consumer Reports names deals you should take.

August 9, 2005; Posted: 11:42 a.m. EDT (1542 GMT)

NEW YORK (CNN/Money) - "Employee pricing" has been such a big hit with car buyers that General Motors, Ford and DaimlerChrysler's Chrysler Group have extended their promotions for another month.

But while the deals may sound great -- the companies say that you are paying just what one of their own employees would pay for the car -- remember that any deal on a car is only as good as the car itself.

To find the real deals, we asked Consumer Reports' experts on auto pricing and evaluation to tell us which vehicles from the "traditional Big Three" are really worth parking in your driveway at these prices.

Since inventories are getting low, some of these cars may be in short supply on dealer lots. Don't expect to have a lot of choice in color or options. You may have to take what's available.

In a few cases, though, a specific model may be selling more slowly. That means there may be more room to negotiate an even better deal.

In our gallery are six cars, currently available with "Employee Price" incentives, that are recommended by Consumer Reports.

Not all of these cars are really great -- in most cases, you could buy a better car if you wanted to spend the money -- but they are all excellent values.

A full listing of Consumer Reports' recommended cars can be found at the magazine's Website, consumerreports.org.

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